24 November 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2026, a team of HM Inspectors of Education visited Catrine Primary School and Early Childhood Centre. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work.

- Children across the primary school and early childcare centre (ECC) are polite, kind and welcoming. They demonstrate very positive behaviour and are keen to learn.
- Led effectively by senior leaders, staff have developed a nurturing and inclusive ethos underpinned by shared values. Children across the primary school and ECC benefit from strong positive and respectful relationships with staff and each other. This supports children to engage in their learning. This contributes to a strong sense of belonging and community.
- Senior leaders and teachers in the primary school share feedback with children effectively. This is supporting children to know themselves as learners, identify the progress they are making and their next steps in learning.
- Staff within the primary school and ECC know children very well. They provide effective universal and targeted supports which helps children to make progress in literacy and numeracy in the primary school. In the ECC, this results in children making very good progress.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from East Ayrshire Council.

- Senior leaders and teachers should continue to work together to develop consistently high-quality learning and teaching. They should ensure that children have opportunities to lead their own learning and experience lessons which are well paced.
- Senior leaders should support teachers in the school to develop further their understanding and use of attainment information across the curriculum. They should use this information to support them to continue to raise attainment in literacy and numeracy.
- Staff within the ECC should develop further their understanding of the approaches that help children to learn and develop skills. This should support children to reach their potential.

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We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using two quality indicators from How good is our school (4th edition). Quality indicators help schools, local authorities and inspectors to judge what is working well and what needs to be improved. Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers details of our evaluations to keep track of how well Scottish schools are doing.

Here are HMIE's evaluations for Catrine Primary School and Early Childhood Centre

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	**good**
Raising attainment and achievement	**good**
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our school (4th edition) Appendix 3: The six-point scale	

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the ELC's work using two quality indicators from the Quality improvement framework for the early learning and childcare sectors.

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	**good**
Children's Progress	**very good**

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the HMIE website at: Catrine Primary School | Inspection Report | His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland

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What happens next?

We are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and so we will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. East Ayrshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Caroline Craig
HM Inspector

On behalf of His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education in Scotland

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